

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGRE-00

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DRAFTED BY USDA:CGUMBMANN 5/9/77 395-5081
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USDA: JHUDSON
TREASURY:WWARTHIN
LABOR:DWANAMAKER
COMMERCE:RSUPPEOLANEY
STATE:JCUNNINGHAM
STR:0SEASTRUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

AGS: ETRD;MTN;EAGR,SZ

SUBJECT:U.S.SWITZERLAND MTN AGRICULTURAL CONSULTATIONS
REF:MTN GE 2582

1.IMPORT PERMITS FOR SWISS BULL SEMEN ARE VALID FOR ONE
YEAR. DUE TO THE SHORTAGE OF USDA VETERINARY EXPERTS IN
SWITZERLAND, ONLY ONE PERMIT IS GRANTED EACH YEAR,
NORMALLY WITHOUT EXTENSION TO PREVENT MONOPOLIZATION.
SEMEN COLLECTION MAY ONLY TAKE PLACE DURING A SPECIFIED
SIXTY-DAY PERIOD WHICH, FOR HEALTH AND TESTING REASONS ,
IS FOLLOWED BY A SIXTY-DAY WAITING PERIOD. IT MAY BE
THIS REQUIREMENT WHICH HAS CAUSED CONFUSION AS IT PERMITS
ONLY THREE COLLECTION PERIODS PER YEAR. A COPY OF THE
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APHIS GUIDELINES FOR SEMEN COLLECTION HAS BEEN HANDCARRIED
TO YOU.

2. THE QUARANTINE FACILITY ON FLEMING KEY, FLORIDA IS
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN 1979,PERMITTING THE
IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN LIVESTOCK FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS
SWITZERLAND CONSIDERED TO BE INFESTED BY RINDERPEST, FOOT

AND MOUTH AND OTHER DESTRUCTIVE DISEASE. U.S. CATTLEMEN HAD SOUGHT SUCH A FACILITY TO ALLOW ACCESS TO BREEDING CATTLE FROM FMD COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO IMPROVE U.S. BREEDING PROGRAMS.

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3. THE BUILDING OF AN OFF-SHORE IMPORT CENTER WAS AUTHORIZED IN MAY, 1970 BY PUBLIC LAW 91-239. THE LAW REQUIRES STRICT SECURITY AND TESTING TO MAKE SURE NO FOREIGN LIVESTOCK DISEASE CAN BE INTRODUCED INTO THE U.S.

4. SELECTED IN 1971 BECAUSE OF ITS LOCATION, 100 MILES FROM THE MAINLAND AND WITHIN A SECURITY AREA (KEY WEST NAVAL BASE) THE FACILITY WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE TWO 400-HEAD LOTS EACH YEAR. AFTER INTENSIVE PRE-EXPORT SCREENING IN THE NATION OF ORIGIN, FOLLOWED BY ISOLATION AND REPEATED TESTING AT A PRE-EMBARKATION FACILITY BEFORE SHIPPING, ANIMALS WILL BE ISOLATED ON FLEMING KEY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FIVE MONTHS OF TESTING BEFORE RELEASE.

5. IN VIEW OF THE FACILITY'S LIMITED CAPACITY PLUS THE WIDESPREAD INTEREST IN LIVESTOCK IMPORTATIONS, USDA SOLICITED PUBLIC COMMENT ON HOW IT SHOULD ALLOCATE THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PERMITS. THE DEADLINE FOR SUCH PUBLIC SUGGESTIONS WAS AUGUST 30, 1975. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE SUGGESTIONS, THE USDA ON FEBRUARY 18, 1977 PROPOSED THE USE OF A LOTTERY TO SELECT IMPORTERS ABLE TO BRING CATTLE INTO THE U.S. THROUGH THE FLEMING KEY FACILITY. UNDER THE PROPOSAL A 90-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE WOULD BE GIVEN BEFORE PUBLIC DRAWINGS, WHICH ARE TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HELD SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE CATTLE ARE IMPORTED. AT THE DRAWING A USDA OFFICIAL WILL SELECT, BY LOT, UP TO 400 IMPORTERS WHO WILL BE ALLOCATED SPACE. IF 400 APPLICATIONS ARE NOT RECEIVED BEFORE THE DRAWING, EACH APPLICANT WILL BE GRANTED A PERMIT FOR ONE ANIMAL, AND A SECOND DRAWING WILL BE MADE UNTIL ALL 400 SPACES ARE ASSIGNED.

6. A FINAL DECISION ON THE PROCEDURES TO BE USED IN THE ALLOCATION OF IMPORT PERMITS FOR THE FLEMING KEY FACILITY WILL BE DECIDED UPON AT A LATER DATE. CHRISTOPHER

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